UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/809,539	03/14/2001	Jay Westerdal	M00-270500	5467

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2135	

DATE MAILED: 03/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 October 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
    closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
        application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This office action is in reply to an amendment filed on October 29, 2004. Claims 1, 7, 10,

16, 19 and 25 have been amended. Claims 1-27 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by
> another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent
> granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
> applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section
> 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States
> only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2)
> of such treaty in the English language.

3.   Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Reiche (US

Patent No. 6,092,196).

4.   As per claims 1 and 10, Reiche teaches a method that facilitates sharing authentication

information between a plurality of servers within a distributed computing system, wherein the

plurality of servers includes a first server and an authentication server (figure 1, customer

servers 120, 150 and authentication server 110), the method comprising:

        receiving a communication from a client at the first server (customer server)[column 4,

lines 54-62 and column 8, lines 47-54];

        determining whether the client is known to the first server (i.e., checking for a special

URL or specific cookie) [column 4, lines 58-62 and column 8, lines 55-64]; and

if the client is unknown to the first server, generating a first identifier for the client

[column 4, lines 63-67 and column 8, lines 52-67], communicating the first identifier to the client,

and directing the client to communicate the first identifier to the authentication server, so that the

authentication server can attempt to associate the first identifier with a known client [column 5,

lines 1-19, column 9, lines 1-25 and column 11, lines 25-43], thereby authenticating the client

without requiring a user to enter a username and password again [column 6, lines 37-44 and

column 11, lines 25-44].

5.   As per claims 7 and 16, Reiche teaches a method that facilitates sharing authentication

information between a plurality of servers within a distributed computing system, wherein the

plurality of servers includes a first server and an authentication server (figure 1, customer

servers 120, 150 and authentication server 110), the method comprising:

receiving a communication from a client at the authentication server, wherein the

communication includes a first identifier generated by the first server for the client [column 4,

lines 54-67, column 5, lines 1-15, column 8, lines 64-67 and column 9, lines 1-17];

determining whether the client is known to the authentication server [column 5, liens 15-

17 and column 9, lines 17-23];

if the client is known to the authentication server, associating the first identifier with a

pre-existing identifier for the client [column 6, lines 37-65]; and

if the client is unknown to the authentication server, causing the client to store a cookie

for the authentication server, wherein the cookie contains an identifier for the client, so that the

authentication server can subsequently identify the client by examining the cookie [column 6,

lines 37-65], thereby authenticating the client without requiring a user to enter a username and

password again [column 6, lines 37-44 and column 11, lines 25-44].

6.   As per claim 19, Reiche teaches an apparatus that facilitates sharing authentication

information between a plurality of servers within a distributed computing system (figure 1,

customer servers 120, 150 and authentication server 110), the apparatus comprising:

        a first server within the plurality of servers [figure 1 server 120];

        a receiving mechanism within the first server that is configured to receive a

communication from a client [column 4, lines 54-62 and column 8, lines 47-54]; and

        an identification mechanism within the first server that is configured to determine

whether the client is known to the first server (i.e., checking for a special URL or specific cookie)

[column 4, lines 58-62 and column 8, lines 55-64]; and

        wherein if the client is unknown to the first server, the identification mechanism is

configured to, generate a first identifier for the client [column 4, lines 63-67 and column 8, lines

52-67], communicate the first identifier to the client, and to direct the client to communicate the

first identifier to the authentication server, so that the authentication server can attempt to

associate the first identifier with a known client [column 5, lines 1-19, column 9, lines 1-25 and

column 11, lines 25-43], thereby authenticating the client without requiring a user to enter a

username and password again [column 6, lines 37-44 and column 11, lines 25-44].

7.   As per claim 25, Reiche teaches an apparatus that facilitates sharing authentication

information between a plurality of servers within a distributed computing system, the apparatus

comprising:

        an authentication server within the plurality of servers [figure 1, authentication server];

a receiving mechanism within the authentication server that is configured to receive a communication from a client, wherein the communication includes a first identifier generated by a first server within the plurality of servers for the client [column 4, lines 54-67, column 5, lines 1-15, column 8, lines 64-67 and column 9, lines 1-17];

an identification mechanism within the authentication server that is configured to determine whether the client is known to the authentication server [column 5, liens 15-17 and column 9, lines 17-23]; and

an association mechanism within the authentication server [column 6, lines 37-65];

wherein if the client is known to the authentication server, the association mechanism is configured to associate the first identifier with a pre-existing identifier for the client [column 6, lines 37-65];

wherein if the client is unknown to the authentication server, the association mechanism is configured to cause the client to store a cookie for the authentication server, wherein the cookie contains an identifier for the client, so that the authentication server can subsequently identify the client by examining the cookie [column 6, lines 37-65], thereby authenticating the client without requiring a user to enter a username and password again [column 6, lines 37-44 and column 11, lines 25-44].

8.   As per claims 2, 8, 11 and 17, Reiche teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore, Reiche teaches the method, wherein if the client is known to the authentication server, the authentication server associates the first identifier with a pre-existing identifier for the client [column 6, lines 37-65]; wherein if the client is unknown to the authentication server, the authentication server causes the client to store a cookie for the authentication server, wherein

the cookie contains an identifier for the client, so that the authentication server can

subsequently identify the client by examining the cookie [column 6, lines 37-65].

9.   As per claims 3, 12 and 26, Reiche teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore,

Reiche teaches the method, wherein the authentication server determines whether or not the

client is known to the authentication server by attempting to examine a cookie presented by the

client to the authentication server [column 6, lines 37-65].

10.   As per claims 4 and 13, Reiche teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore,

Reiche teaches the method, wherein if the client is unknown to the first server, the method

additionally comprises causing the client to store a cookie for the first server, so that the client

can subsequently present the cookie to the first server in order to identify the client to the first

server [column 10, lines 17-34].

11.   As per claims 5, 9, 14, 18, 23 and 27, Reiche teaches the method as applied above.

Furthermore, Reiche teaches the method, further comprising: receiving a username and a

password from the client; attempting to authenticate the client based on the username and the

password, and if the client authenticates, associating the username with the client [column 9,

lines 27-33].

12.   As per claims 6, 15 and 24, Reiche teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore,

Reiche teaches the method, wherein determining whether the client is known to the first server

involves: looking for a cookie presented by the client to the first server, and if such a cookie is

presented by the client, determining if the cookie contains an identifier that is known to the first

server [column 10, lines 17-34].

13.   As per claims 20 and 21, Reiche teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore,

Reiche teaches the apparatus, further comprising an authentication server within the plurality of

servers [figure 1]; an association mechanism within the authentication server [column 6, lines

37-65]; wherein if the client is known to the authentication server, the association mechanism is

configured to associate the first identifier with a pre-existing identifier for the client [column 6,

lines 37-65]; wherein if the client is unknown to the authentication server, the association

mechanism is configured to cause the client to store a cookie for the authentication server,

wherein the cookie contains an identifier for the client, so that the authentication server can

subsequently identify the client by examining the cookie [column 6, lines 37-65].

14.   As per claim 22, Reiche teaches the apparatus as applied above. Furthermore, Reiche

teaches the apparatus, wherein if the client is unknown to the first server, the identification

mechanism is additionally configured to cause the client to store a cookie for the first server, so

that the client can subsequently present the cookie to the first server in order to identify the

client to the first server [column 10, lines 17-34].

Response to Arguments

14.   Applicant's arguments filed October 29, 2004 have been fully considered but they are

not persuasive. Applicant argues that in Reiche, cookie is valid for a particular customer server

and if a user wishes to access a resource located on another customer server, a new cookie

must be constructed for a new customer server, and furthermore the procedure for constructing

a new cookie requires the user to enter login information, in other words, Reiche requires the

user to enter the username and password again. Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Examiner would point out that Reiche teaches an authentication system that does not

require a user to enter username/password again. *"Once the user has been validated and the*

cookie holding the user ID and the authentication server user information placed in the user's

browser, the interaction user/authentication server, where the user is required to input user ID

and Password is **no longer necessary in instances where the user connects with a**

different customer server" (see Reiche, col. 6, lines 37-44). Therefore the examiner asserts

that Reiche teaches the claimed limitations as recited in the claims. Accordingly the rejection is

respectfully maintained.

Conclusion

15.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy

as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date
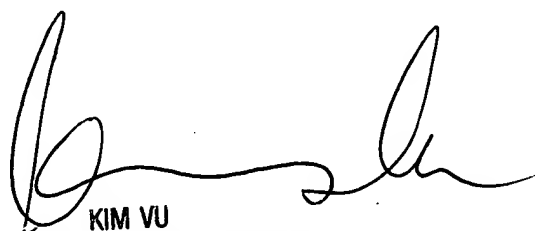
of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Beemnet W Dada whose telephone number is (571) 272-3847. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (9:00 am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Beemnet Dada

February 22, 2005

KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100